

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

After the foregoing Amendment, claims 1, 3-16, and 20-21 are currently pending in this application. Claims 5-10, 15-16, and 21 have been withdrawn. Claims 2 and 17-19 have been canceled. Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, and 13 have been amended to more distinctly claim subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention. No new matter has been introduced into the application by these amendments.

#### **Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112**

Claims 1, 3, 4, 11-14, and 20 stand rejected under 35 USC § 112 second paragraph as being allegedly indefinite.

Regarding claims 1, 4, 11, and 13, those claims are allegedly indefinite because they contain the term “substantially.” The Examiner contends that this is not defined by the claim, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The term “substantially” has a well understood, generally applicable meaning that is easily understood in the context of the claims. It means simply that there is no material qualification of the associated claim elements. One might attempt to work around the claims simply by including a mechanism that introduces an insubstantial but non-zero misdirection or delay in the data path or timing. Such an attempted workaround should not be endorsed by the PTO, and the use of the term “substantial” in the claims is proper. Nevertheless, to advance prosecution, the term has been deleted from the claims.

The Examiner contends the phrase "as soon as possible" is a relative term which renders the aforementioned claims indefinite, and kindly suggested an alternative. The claims have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1, 3-4, 11-14, and 20 are respectfully requested.

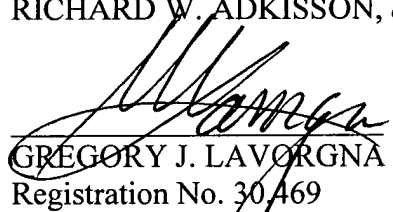
**Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application, including claims 1, 3-4, 11-14, and 20, is in condition for allowance and a notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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